

kenzie to watch over the public treasury when the section B contract was made, or when the Quebec Graving Dock matter was going on, or when the Lévis Graving Dock affair was in progress, or when the Langevin block was being constructed. Sir, the hon. gentleman has this for my answer: all public men are subject to temptation; but there is this difference between the party on the opposite side of the House and the party on this side—that we are willing to remove these temptations from us by law, while they have been always ready to yield to them. If it is possible to remove these temptations, I say once more that I am disposed to tie my hands and the hands of my colleagues to that extent. With regard to the charges which the hon. gentleman makes as to the manner in which the civil service has been treated, I may say that for the first time since confederation notice has been given that the civil service shall be non-partisan, that its members shall no longer be the henchmen of the men in power. We do not want the members of the civil service to do our bidding as some of them did the bidding of the hon. gentleman opposite, when he calculated that the Government would receive \$50,000,000 from the sale of public lands. We want every man in the service of the Government to discharge his duty fairly by the country, and so long as he does that, he has nothing to fear. But the moment a man becomes a political partisan or is found to have been a political partisan, he has no favour to expect or to receive at our hands.

Mr. McMULLEN. I may be allowed to explain, for the benefit of the hon. leader of the Opposition—

Mr. FOSTER. Spoken.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. member has a reply.

Mr. McMULLEN. The Bill does not go so far as to propose to take out of the hands of the Cabinet the appointment to office of any person who is recommended to them as a fit and proper person. My reason for not going that far with the Bill is this. Every member has the right to certain patronage in his constituency; and if you transferred the right of appointment as well of the right of dismissal to the supervisors, then the civil service would be absolutely and entirely under the control of that commission. I am not prepared to say that that might not perhaps be an advisable thing for the House to consider; but at present the Bill simply proposes to authorize these men to inspect the staff and to decide whether the number employed, either in the inside or the outside service, is too great, or whether any of those employed are inefficient or that the services performed are not up to the standard. In these cases they have the right to suspend, and to report the fact to the head of the

Mr. LAURIER.

department. On the other hand, if they find that there is not sufficient work to afford continuous employment to the officers of any department, which they inspect, they have the right to reduce the number of officers in that department to what they consider necessary to carry on efficiently the service of the country. I may add that I have not been inspired nor instructed in any shape or form by the hon. leader of the Government or any other member of the Government with regard to this Bill. It is a subject that has received consideration from me for years past, and I have thought it was necessary in the interests of the country that some change should take place. The Bill is solely and entirely a project of my own, with the object of making the service cheaper and more efficient.

Mr. FOSTER. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman a question. He proposes to create three new officers in the shape of commissioners. Does he propose to put them in the civil service?

Mr. McMULLEN. That is a question that can be decided when the Bill comes before the House. The present Auditor General is, I think, in the civil service. I think he contributes to the Superannuation Fund. For my part, I am in favour of whatever will give these men the most independent and untrammelled action, free from the dictation of any party.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. Speaker, the hon. leader of the Opposition told us that he could not forbear letting fly his indignation on the first occasion that occurred. The hon. gentleman seems to be greatly troubled in that way this session. He has an almost unlimited supply of indignation to let loose on any occasion or without occasion.

Mr. FOSTER. There is great occasion for it.

Mr. CASEY. The real occasion of the indignation of the hon. gentleman, I have no doubt, is that he is not controlling the civil service himself. It is less the manner in which it is conducted than the hands in which it rests that seems to affect the conscience of the hon. leader of the Opposition. He was rather unfortunate in his reference to the late Mr. Mackenzie standing guard against the pillage of the treasury by his supporters, because he thereby reminded us of the fact that Mr. Mackenzie's successors—the Government of which the hon. gentleman semi-periodically used to form a part, and which he supported—saved themselves that trouble. They did not stand on guard, and the difference has been quite perceptible in the public accounts ever since.

Mr. LISTER. They left the lid open.

Mr. LANDERKIN. And the key out.

Mr. CASEY. They did. As an old civil servant, the hon. gentleman's opinion ought